

Federal Benefits for Children in DCYF Care

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families

Policy: 1000.0000

Effective Date: December 18, 1984 Revised Date: November 16, 2009 Version: 2

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is the designated single-state agency entitled to submit claims for Title IV-E reimbursement in Rhode Island. The Department is responsible to determine which children are eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement based on federal criteria and which costs meet the eligibility criteria for administering the Title IV-E program.

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act provides assistance to state child welfare agencies rendering services to children in need of care. Under Title IV-E, the federal government shares the cost in caring for financially deprived children who are placed in substitute care. Title IV-E reimbursement covers payments made for foster care (both voluntary placements and court ordered placements), adoption subsidy and administrative costs incurred in the process of placing and maintaining children in alternative, protective settings.

DCYF Management and Budget staff determine Title IV-E eligibility for all children upon initial placement into foster care, including group care. Management and Budget staff verify citizenship and immigration status on all children through obtaining birth certificates, researching the Department of Human Services (DHS) database and, when necessary, obtaining copies of resident alien cards. Management and Budget staff ensure that all children receive uninterrupted medical care and that those delivering that care are reimbursed in a timely fashion.

In an effort to ensure uninterrupted delivery of medical care, Management and Budget staff secure for the child the most appropriate of the following three (3) types of medical coverage within forty-eight hours of the child entering placement:

- Title IV-E Eligible (AFDC-Foster Care)
- Non Title IV-E Eligible (Foster Care - Medical)
- SSI Disability (Supplemental Security Income)

Related Procedures

[Federal Benefits for Children in DCYF Care Procedure](#)

Federal Benefits for Children in DCYF Care

Procedure from Policy 1000.0000: Federal Benefits for Children in DCYF Care

- A. Foster care medical coverage: Management and Budget staff process applications for AFDC-Foster Care coverage for all children entering out-of-home placements by completing the DCYF #008, Medical Assistance (MA) application.
1. A child under eighteen (18) years of age is eligible for MA on the basis of deprivation/separation from his/her family. If child is eighteen (18) years of age, he/she must graduate from high school prior to his/her nineteenth (19th) birthday.
 2. A child who is older than eighteen (18) years of age but not yet twenty-one (21) years of age who is in foster care and is not eligible for Title IV-E is eligible for MA. The basis of eligibility for MA is deprivation of parental support occasioned by the child's separations from his/her family (refer to [DCYF Policy 700.0240, Services to Youth Ages 18 - 21](#)).
 3. Eligibility Technicians (ET) in the Management and Budget Unit review daily computer reports of new, changed, or terminated placements and determine if there is a need for change of coverage (refer to [RICHIST Window Help: Eligibility Documentation Process](#)).
 4. The primary service worker ensures the placement information of each child is current in the Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST) (refer to [DCYF Policy 700:0100, Rhode Island Children's Information System \(RICHIST\)](#)).
 5. Children in approved out-of-home placements receive their medical card within 8 (eight) to 10 (ten) days.
 - a. The medical card follows a child from one placement to another when appropriate.
 - b. The child's medical coverage is closed at the time the child is returned home.
 - c. The child's medical coverage is suspended in the following situations:
 - i. When the child enters a state licensed public institution such as Rhode Island Training School
 - ii. If the child is on AWOL status
 6. An automated letter with notification that medical coverage has been terminated is sent to the parental home if reunified or placement provider when the Eligibility Technician terminates the child's medical coverage in RICHIST/INRHODES.
- B. Determination of Title IV-E Eligibility: Management and Budget staff make determinations on Title IV-E eligibility based on the following criteria:
1. A child is considered Title IV-E eligible in the following situations:
 - a. The Department has placement and care responsibility for the child.
 - b. He/she is placed in a licensed foster/relative home or licensed child care facility with board paid.
 - c. If child is eighteen (18) years of age, he/she is expected to graduate from high school prior to his/her nineteenth (19th) birthday.
 - d. Status of the child at the time of application:
 - i. At the time of removal the child was living with a parent or other relative specified in federal regulations at 45 CFR 233.90(c)(1)(v) and would have been eligible for AFDC in that relative's home in the month the removal from home petition was filed or for the month the voluntary placement agreement was signed.
 - ii. The child was not living with this parent or specified relative at the time of removal, but did so at some time within the previous six months of removal, and would have been eligible for AFDC in that relative's home in the month of legal removal as if the child was still living with that relative.

- e. Judicial determinations of reasonable efforts and contrary to the welfare when the child first enters care have been made, as well as reasonable efforts to finalize permanency no less frequently than annually.
- 2. A child is not eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement in the following situations:
 - a. When the child is eighteen (18) years of age and will not graduate from high school prior to his/her nineteenth (19) birthday; or open to DCYF receiving after care services.
 - b. If a voluntary agreement for placement is not reviewed in Family Court within 180 days with a judicial determination that remaining in care is in the best interest of the child.
 - c. If a child is placed in an unlicensed home or facility, including out-of-state placement, for which there is no ICPC approval.
- C. Management and Budget staff complete yearly re-determinations for eligibility for Title IV-E, except for voluntary placements, which are reviewed within 180 days to determine if any court action has been initiated and then are reviewed when the child has been in foster care for twelve (12) months and thereafter on a yearly basis.
 - 1. Eligibility technicians review items such as licensing, legal status, permanency planning, financial need and deprivation at the time of re-determinations (DCYF #008A). If everything is acceptable, Eligibility Technician updates RICHIST and re-determines eligibility for MA in INRHODES; and
 - 2. If a child is found Title IV-E ineligible during the re-determination process the child is transferred to a non Title IV-E foster care caseload.
- D. Management and Budget staff maintain the following hardcopies in the IV-E file:
 - 1. Title IV-E eligibility checklist
 - 2. Voluntary Application/Authorization/Consent for Placement of Children (DCYF #023), or
 - 3. A "Reasonable Efforts" determination, made by the recognized authority granting custody (in court cases only), detailing that the agency made reasonable efforts to "maintain the family unit and prevent the unnecessary removal of a child from home", and
 - 4. A "Contrary to the Welfare" determination, made by the recognized authority granting custody (in court cases only), through a judicial determination to the effect that continuation in the home would be contrary to the child's welfare, or that placement in foster care would be in the best interest of the child.
- E. Children placed in out of state care (refer to [DCYF Policy: 700.0060, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children \(ICPC\)](#)).
 - 1. Title IV-E eligible children receive AFCD-FC through their resident state.
 - 2. Non Title IV-E eligible children receive AFCD-FC through the sending state which maintains financial responsibility for the child's medical coverage.
 - i. Relative should be given an informed choice taking into consideration the amount of money he/she would receive from TANF rather than DCYF and the ramifications of having RI rather than resident state MA.
 - ii. If relative elects to apply for TANF- Loco Parentis rather than DCYF board and care support, he/she applies in the resident state.
- F. Children found eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are automatically eligible for medical assistance (refer to [DCYF Policy 1000.0005: Social Security Benefits-SSI](#)).
- G. Special needs children eligible for Title IV-E adoption assistance may receive financial and medical assistance to make adoption possible (refer to [DCYF Policy 700.0090: Adoption Subsidy](#)).